



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RAYTOWN, BELTON, INDEPENDENCE WOMEN PLEAD GUILTY TO ROLE IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three women pleaded guilty in federal court today to charges related to a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Angela K. Baker, 29, of Independence, Mo., **Kara S. Patrick**, 23, of Raytown, Mo., and **Terra Hedger**, 30, of Belton, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. Chief District Judge Dean Whipple this morning to charges contained in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Dec. 15, 2004, in Kansas City.

Baker pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and Dec. 15, 2004. Specifically, **Baker** admitted that she supplied pseudoephedrine to others throughout the length of the conspiracy for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine and that she aided and abetted others in the manufacture of methamphetamine on July 17, 2004.

Patrick pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting others in the manufacture of 50 grams or more of methamphetamine on July 17, 2004. Specifically, **Patrick** admitted that she aided in the manufacture of methamphetamine by “popping” cold pills which would be used by methamphetamine cooks in the manufacturing process.

Hedger pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting others in the manufacture of methamphetamine on July 30, 2004. **Hedger** admitted that she supplied precursor chemicals to others for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Under federal statutes, **Baker** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$4 million. **Patrick** and **Hedger** may be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years

in federal prison without parole, up to 40 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$2 million.

Three others also have pleaded guilty to their role in this methamphetamine conspiracy.

Patrick P. Gruetze, 30, and **James Deterding**, 31, and **Winfred E. Taylor**, 36, all of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between April 1, 2003, and Dec. 15, 2004. **Deterding** pleaded guilty on Aug. 30, 2005, **Gruetze** pleaded guilty on June 23, 2005, and **Taylor** pleaded guilty on June 6, 2005.

They also may be subject to mandatory minimum sentences of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life in federal prison without parole, plus fines up to \$4 million.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force and the Belton, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow